

CHAPTER NO. 14

SENATE BILL NO. 609

By Jackson, Harper

Substituted for: House Bill No. 389

By Shepard, Tidwell

AN ACT to designate a segment of State Route 100 in Hickman County as the "Officer Christy Jo Dedman Memorial Highway".

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their own concerns to ensure our collective freedom and personal safety, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, in providing for the domestic tranquility of the community as a whole, society recognizes the need for a system of laws; the enforcement of the law has been entrusted to a small number of dedicated individuals who daily face the rigors of human conflict in protecting those whom they so selflessly serve; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee are fortunate to be served by the brave and dedicated law enforcement officers who put their lives on the line while carrying out their essential duties; and

WHEREAS, Officer Christy Dedman of the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department was one such outstanding public servant; citizens across the state and the members of the General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of her tragic and untimely death in the line of duty on July 19, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman had just begun her dedicated service with the Metropolitan Nashville Police Department, having served for 11 months on the force; she truly enjoyed being a police officer, and she evidenced uncommon dedication to her duties despite the long hours and the uncertain and often dangerous nature of her profession; and

WHEREAS, despite being new to the police force, Officer Dedman performed her appointed duties in an admirable manner that distinguished her as a credit to both her community and her profession; Metropolitan Nashville was undoubtedly made a better and safer place to live during her service; and

WHEREAS, a great tragedy befell the State of Tennessee on the fateful day of July 19, 2004, when Officer Dedman was fatally injured while protecting a citizen who was experiencing car trouble on the shoulder of a dangerous section of Interstate 40 near Stewart's Ferry Pike in Nashville; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Metropolitan Nashville, Hickman County, and indeed the entire state, are now feeling the deep pain produced by this terrible and wasteful loss of one of our best and brightest law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, on July 21, 2004, in recognition of her conviction, character, talents, and her brave and able service during her tenure with the force, Officer Christy Dedman was posthumously presented with the Medal of Valor, the Metropolitan Police Department's highest honor; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman was a highly respected member of her community, not only as a law enforcement professional who served and protected her fellow citizens, but also as a friend and a neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Christy Jo Dedman was born in Nashville on September 4, 1969, and moved with her family at the age of five to Hickman County, where she attended school until her graduation from Hickman County High School; and

WHEREAS, Christy worked admirably to achieve a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice at Austin Peay State University; at the time of her passing, she was also nearing completion of a Master's degree from Middle Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman regarded her work as an officer to be of the utmost significance; her loyalty and commitment to justice fueled her determination to become an officer of the law, which she did following graduation from the Metro Police Training Academy on July 28, 2003; and

WHEREAS, as her commitment to serving others was fueled by her Christian devotion, Officer Dedman toiled with great resolve at creating a community of peace and justice while remaining a bastion of compassion to her friends and neighbors; she was a faithful and dedicated member of Five Points Church of Christ and loved working with the local youth T-ball program; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman was also deeply committed to, devoted to, and inspired by her loving family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Christy Dedman was the granddaughter of the late Claude and Mary Jane Dedman, long-time residents of Hickman County; she is survived by her loving parents, Jesse J. Dedman and Vera E. Tidwell Dedman, also long-term residents of Hickman County, one brother, Curtis Dedman, and many aunts, uncles, and cousins; and

WHEREAS, Officer Dedman leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity, probity, and valor in her public life as a law enforcement officer, compassion and loyalty in private life, and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the Hickman County Commission has requested that a segment of State Route 100, which includes her parents' residence, be named in Christy Jo Dedman's honor; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly concurs with this excellent proposal to permanently commemorate the bountiful life of this exceptional police officer and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, that segment of State Route 100 from such route's intersection with State Route 46 and State Route 7 in Hickman County eastward to the Hickman County-Williamson County boundary is hereby designated as the "Officer Christy Jo Dedman Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to an exemplary public servant who made the ultimate sacrifice of her life while protecting her community and fellow citizens.

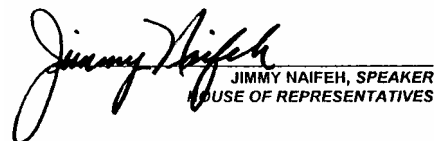
SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable markers or to affix suitable signs designating such segment of State Route 100 in Hickman County as the "Officer Christy Jo Dedman Memorial Highway". The cost of such signage shall be funded in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, § 54-1-133.

SECTION 3. The erection of such signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: March 21, 2005


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE


JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APPROVED this 29th day of March 2005


PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR